

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

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1. A composition suitable for pharmaceutical, cosmetic or dermatological usage, said composition comprising at least one agent which produces an irritant side-effect, at least one compound selected from the group consisting of interleukin-1 antagonists, TNF-alpha antagonists and combinations thereof, in an amount effective to antagonize said irritant side-effect, and a cosmetically, dermatologically or pharmaceutically acceptable medium therefor.

2. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the agent which produces an irritant side-effect is selected from the group consisting of alpha-hydroxy acids, beta-hydroxy acids, alpha-keto acids, beta-keto acids, retinoids, anthralins, anthranoids, peroxides, minoxidil, lithium salts, antimetabolites, vitamin D, depigmentation agents, solvents, perfumes, preservatives, surfactants and alcoholic solutions.

3. The composition of Claim 1, further comprising at least one histamine antagonist.

4. The composition of Claim 3, wherein the histamine antagonist is a heterocycle or a nitrogen compound having at least one benzene ring.

5. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the amount of the compound ranges from about 0.000001 to 5% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

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5 6. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the amount of the compound ranges from about 0.0001 to 0.1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

10 7. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the cosmetically, pharmaceutically, or dermatologically acceptable medium comprises an aqueous, oil or aqueous alcoholic solution, a water-in-oil emulsion, an oil-in-water emulsion, a microemulsion, an aqueous gel, an anhydrous gel, a serum, or a dispersion of vesicles, microcapsules or microparticles.

15 8. The composition of Claim 1, further comprising at least one active agent selected from the group consisting of anti-bacterial, antiparasitic, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, antipruriginous, anesthetic, antiviral, keratolytic, free-radical scavenging, antiseborrheic, antidandruff and anti-acne agents and/or agents which modulate the differentiation and/or the proliferation and/or the pigmentation of skin.

20 9. The composition of Claim 8, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of lidocaine hydrochloride, antiparasitic agents and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents.

25 10. A composition suitable for pharmaceutical, cosmetic or dermatological usage, said composition comprising at least one agent which produces an irritant side-effect, at least one compound selected from the group consisting of interleukin-1 antagonists, TNF-alpha antagonists and combinations thereof, in an amount effective to antagonize said irritant side-effect, and a cosmetically, dermatologically or pharmaceutically acceptable medium therefor, said compound being capable of inhibiting the IL-1-induced adhesion of

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5 macrophages to endothelial cells, inhibiting the IL-1-induced release of superoxide anions from neutrophils, inhibiting the TNF-alpha-induced adhesion of macrophages to endothelial cells, inhibiting the TNF-alpha-induced release of superoxide anions from neutrophils, inhibiting the mitogenic activity of TNF-alpha by dermal fibroblasts, or inhibiting the release of interleukin-1 or TNF-alpha by phorbol ester induced differentiated monocytes.

- 10 11. The composition of Claim 10, wherein the agent which produces an irritant side-effect is selected from the group consisting of alpha-hydroxy acids, beta-hydroxy acids, alpha-keto acids, beta-keto acids, retinoids, anthralins, anthranoids, peroxides, minoxidil, lithium salts, antimetabolites, vitamin D, depigmentation agents, solvents, perfumes, preservatives, surfactants and alcoholic solutions.
- 15 12. The composition of Claim 10, further comprising at least one histamine antagonist, said histamine antagonist being capable of inhibiting the contraction of smooth muscles induced by the administration of histamine or inhibiting the release of histamine by stimulated mast cells.
- 20 13. The composition of Claim 12, wherein the histamine antagonist is a heterocycle or a nitrogen compound having at least one benzene ring.
- 25 14. The composition of Claim 10, wherein the amount of the compound ranges from about 0.000001 to 5% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.
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15. The composition of Claim 10, wherein the amount of the compound ranges from about 0.0001 to 0.1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

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16. The composition of Claim 10, wherein the cosmetically, pharmaceutically, or dermatologically acceptable medium comprises an aqueous, oil or aqueous alcoholic solution, a water-in-oil emulsion, an oil-in-water emulsion, a microemulsion, an aqueous gel, an anhydrous gel, a serum, or a dispersion of vesicles, microcapsules or microparticles.

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17. The composition of Claim 10, further comprising at least one active agent selected from the group consisting of anti-bacterial, antiparasitic, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, antipruriginous, anesthetic, antiviral, keratolytic, free-radical scavenging, antiseborrheic, antidandruff and anti-acne agents and/or agents which modulate the differentiation and/or the proliferation and/or the pigmentation of skin.

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18. The composition of Claim 17, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of lidocaine hydrochloride, antiparasitic agents and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents.

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